

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 114414
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02
/108 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P: BRUSSELL:LMG
APPROVED BY AF/P: RHOLLIDAY
-----023686 050613Z /21

R 042316Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS STATE 114414
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 114414

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 4, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY THIS GOVERNMENT TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ABOUT SENDING TROOPS TO AFRICA?

A. I KNOW OF NO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN.

Q. IS THAT AT ALL NOT IN TUNE WITH THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES? YOU MAKE SO MUCH NOISE ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.

A. WELL, WE DON'T REALLY DRAW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE TWO. I NOTE THAT AS A FORMER COLONIAL POWER, FRANCE HAS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH SEVERAL OF ITS FORMER COLONIES FOR OBVIOUS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL REASONS, IN ADDITION TO A LONG-STANDING DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH MANY OF THOSE COUNTRIES. FRANCE ALSO HAS A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE SAFETY OF THOUSANDS OF FRENCH NATIONALS LIVING ABROAD.

Q. CUBA IS A NEW COLONIAL POWER. DO YOU DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE NEW COLONIAL POWERS IN FAVOR OF THE OLD COLONIAL POWERS? I THOUGHT THERE IS AN OPPOSITION TO COLONIALISM, ISN'T THERE? WHAT ABOUT THIS, "AS A FORMER COLONIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 114414

POWER"? WON'T MR. CASTRO KIND OF SEIZE ON THAT?

A. I WASN'T SUGGESTING THAT THIS WAS A COLONIAL ACT ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH.

Q. WELL, YOU SAID "AS A FORMER COLONIAL POWER."

A. THAT'S RIGHT, AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES WITH THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND WHICH HAS A GOOD MANY THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS IN THE FORMER COLONIES, IT NATURALLY HAS CERTAIN CONCERNS IN AFRICA THAT, PRESUMABLY, THE CUBANS DON'T HAVE.

Q. ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THEY SENT THE TROOPS THERE TO PROTECT THE FRENCH NATIONALS?

A. FRENCH TROOPS ARE IN CHAD ON A SECURITY MISSION AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT IN FACE OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS BY REBEL FORCES. ARMED BY LIBYA, REBEL FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW SERIES OF ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE NORTH. AS PART OF A LONG-STANDING BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, FRENCH

FORCES HAVE BEEN INVITED INTO CHAD TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION, TO RESTORE THE CEASE-FIRE, TO PROMOTE AN END TO THE FIGHTING, AND TO PROTECT FRENCH NATIONALS IN CHAD. WE SUPPORT CHADIAN AND FRENCH EFFORTS TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN CHAD.

Q. HOW MANY FRENCH NATIONALS ARE THERE IN CHAD? DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE CUBAN AND SOVIET TROOPS WERE INVITED IN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA TO PROTECT THAT COUNTRY AGAINST OPEN AGGRESSION FROM OUTSIDE? THE ILLOGIC OF THAT IS SO STAGGERING. ANOTHER POINT THAT WE MIGHT JUST COMMUNICATE TO THE PERSON WHO WROTE THAT GUIDANCE IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION CLAIMS A QUASI-COLONIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, A LONG-STANDING, CULTURAL RELATIONSHIP, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 114414

GOING BACK TO THE MIDDLE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

A. REGARDING THE ROLE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN THE HORN, I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE TO REHEARSE THAT FOR YOU AND OUR POINT OF VIEW, AND WE'VE GONE OVER THAT A GOOD MANY TIMES. WE FELT THAT THE ROLE, THEIR POSITION THERE ACTUALLY ESCALATED THE VIOLENCE, AND THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATION AND OUGHT TO BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS.

IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, YOU HAVE A CASE WHERE THERE WAS A CEASE-FIRE WHICH HAS BEEN VIOLATED. YOU HAVE A CASE WHERE THE CHADIANS WHO DO NOT HAVE A LARGE DEFENSE FORCE, HAVE INVITED THE FRENCH IN TO HELP THEM OUT, AND A CASE IN WHICH THERE IS A SIZABLE NUMBER OF FRENCH CITIZENS.

Q. WHAT IS THIS SIZABLE NUMBER?

A. I DON'T HAVE THAT, I'M SORRY.

CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, PRESS CONFERENCES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE114414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BRUSSELL:LMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-1028
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780591/aaaadada.tel
Line Count: 156
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ebeacba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2788347
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 4, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECE SSARY
TAGS: SOPN, AMGT, MASS, FR, CD
To: BANJUL USNATO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ebeacba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014